

Fire and Life Safety for Day Cares and Preschools

Office of the
State Fire Marshal
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm>



Fire safety guidelines for day care and preschool facilities. Fire sprinklers offer the best protection!

Check with your fire department to learn fire and life safety requirements in state and local building and fire codes.

1 Local and State Fire and Life Safety Code Requirements– There are special fire code considerations for day care and preschool facilities. You should be familiar with the requirements in these areas.

- ☐ Requirements for facilities above or below the first floor
- ☐ Exits
- ☐ Fire Drills
- ☐ Fire Alarm Systems
- ☐ Sprinkler Systems
- ☐ Fire Extinguishers
- ☐ Fire Prevention

2 Recalled Products - Be sure all child care equipment is not involved in a Consumer Product Safety Commission recall by checking on line at www.cpsc.gov. Especially check:

- ☐ cribs
- ☐ walkers
- ☐ play yards
- ☐ highchairs
- ☐ infant swings
- ☐ car seats
- ☐ toys
- ☐ safety gates

3 Training for Staff– Most often it is a member of your staff that will first discover a fire, take the first action to extinguish it and take life safety measures.

- ☐ Ensure staff are aware of fire protection features of the building.
- ☐ Ensure staff have participated in practicing fire drill procedures.
- ☐ Ensure staff have training in Fire Extinguisher use.

4 Teaching preschoolers to be Firesafe -- Many young children die in fires because they instinctively try to hide from smoke and flame. Their bodies are found in closets and under beds. When talking with children about what to do in a fire, emphasize that they cannot hide from fire, but they can escape.

- ☐ **Match and Lighter Safety** – Young children should know that matches and lighters are tools, not toys, for use by adults only. Don't play with fire. Teach children to tell a grown-up if they find matches or lighters.
- ☐ **Escaping from a fire** – When talking with children about what to do in a fire, emphasize that they cannot hide from fire, but they can escape. At home and at school, children should know a proper fire-escape plan. Hold frequent fire drills and encourage both children and their parents to have a similar fire-escape plan at home. They should know two ways out, have a meeting place outside and never go back into a burning building.
- ☐ **Crawl Low Under Smoke** – Teach children that heat and smoke rise. If you are in a fire, you must crawl under the smoke where the air is cleaner.
- ☐ **Stop Drop and Roll** – Teach children to “Stop, Drop and Roll” if their clothes catch on fire. **Stop**, right where they are, **Drop** to the ground, cover their face with their hands and **Roll** over and over to put out the fire.
- ☐ **Risk Watch Book List** – A list of Children's safety books, available on line at: www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/booklst.doc

References: Consumer Product Safety Commission on line at www.cpsc.gov, National Fire Protection Association on line at www.nfpa.org, International Fire Code, 2003 Edition